

polypropylene) to a rigid suction tube (10) having a length between 0.5 and 3 meters, designed with a diameter slightly smaller than the space between one anode and another in the electrowinning cell; and manufactured of polymeric material. The rigid suction tube is joined by means of a fast plastic coupling to a flexible hose (11) that has exactly the same interior diameter as the tube. The length of the hose varies between 1 and 15 meters, and its material is heat-resisting ductile plastic (up to 70 degrees Celsius). The suction power of the manifold (1) is provided by the suction line of the pumping system (2).

REMARKS

By the above amendment, reference numerals have been added to the specification to identify corresponding elements in the drawings.

Formal drawing Figure 1-4 are being submitted in response to a Notice to File Corrected Application Papers dated March 4, 2004. A new, formal, Figure 5 is also submitted herewith to further illustrate the disclosed invention. The elements of Figure 5 are discussed in the specification, and Figure 5 includes content generally similar to what is disclosed in Figure 1; consequently, it is not believed that this figure constitutes new matter.

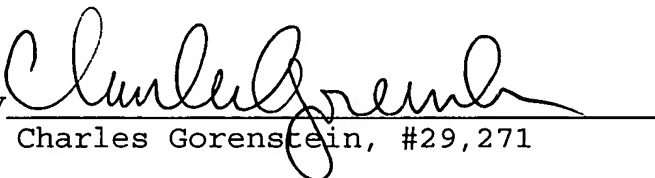
Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Scott T. Wakeman (Reg. No. 37,750) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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